

Romany Theatre Company

Atching Tan Project

Reminiscence Interview – Transcription of Edited Interview

Date of Interview	Interviewer	Interviewee	Age Range of Interviewee	Duration of Edited Recording
March 2010	Sinead	George Pt 2	65-70	05:17

Key timing	Initial of person speaking	Transcription of Interview
00:00	George	<p>Ill walk into a pub sorry we cant serve you here. Walk by a pub with a sign up No Gypsies, no Travellers served. You never ever see it for black people, you wouldn't put a sign up no blacks served here no Indians served here they might discriminate against them but you don't actually see it in the open. You still do today with travellers as you've done for years. And travellers aren't racist. Travellers, how can you say it? Travellers will say a black man coz he is a black. They won't pick on him coz he's a black man but they will say he's a black man coz it's the truth, ya know, but then that's the way a traveller is.</p> <p>Even only recently we had our fences was daubed with swastikas and err... 'get the gypos out'. We informed the police, coz we wanted to not that we expected anything. They did come up and err... they weren't too bothered about it they just said 'Do you think its racism?' I said 'What's the swastika if its not racism?' and at the same time just a few miles from here there was a mosque where (it's a warehouse converted to a mosque) and they had swastikas and that daubed on the doors. And ya see it in all the papers, the national papers, the council went up out to clean the paint up. We didn't even get nothing off the council and if we do anything here everybody seems to take no notice, but nobody ever noticed about the swastikas on the gates and we left them on there for a fortnight. And when they come back and done it again and we phoned the police again. They come up. They didn't know nothing about the first doings and they asked us again 'Do you think its racism?' So we said 'It's the second time'. They said 'What do you mean it's the second time?' But they just went away and they never done nothing. But we're still here in't we. There's no way a' get the travellers. We're the first self employed. They were the first self employed people. It was only a few years ago, I think probably up until the late 60's that when you went in to try and claim a bit of dole (as they used to call), it they wouldn't give it to you if you was a traveller. You wouldn't get nothing!</p>
02:08		<p>Educate me? I went to school on and off. I had enough education. I never got no qualifications, but that didn't stop me from wanting to earn a living. I didn't enjoy going to school, but I wish I'd gone to it a bit more because there's nothing like being able to learn to read and write. I mean, I only really learned to read afterwards, after I left school to err... read a newspaper but that was only coz when you're with people and they expect you to be able to read, so you pick up a paper to make out you're like them see. Then you start and you teach yourself to read, but I don't think there's anything like education because whatever you're doing you educate yourself. And what a lot of travellers don't realise, what they done for a living and what they are today coz they was educated by their parents and their grandparents and their family around them. It was still a form of education, in it? Its still a form of education and its alright being able to talk Romani an' that and knowing every traveller there is an' that, but that's only like a social thing. That's like an Indian walking about with a turban on, ya know. Everyone of his religion whether he's a Sikh or what they call 'em, they know who he is, ya know what I mean?</p>
03:13		<p>A Traveller, you can always tell a traveller. I think its what you are. You can umm... don't matter whether ya look dark, fair or whatever they are. Whether they're rich or poor you can always tell them a mile off. In the way he walks, the way he talks, probably the way he dresses. There's always something about him. The way he holds himself. It's his</p>

		<p>sense of humour. All the travellers can see the funny side of anything. They've had to haven't they? They bin outcast for years. Being happy is better than being miserable in it. Being healthy and happy. Rich can buy you things, but you don't need all them things. Being healthy is better than being ill but unless your born a traveller or married into travellers, they cant, ya know. I don't think so. Unless they got something in 'em that makes them be like that. Unless they wanna be like that, because its not so much ya learn, its just a completely different way of life. People look and they don't think 'oh he's got this and they've got that and that's this and he's a so and so'. I shouldn't think they don't know, half the travellers don't even know what the other half's doing. Yeah, I'm proud to be a traveller. Yeah why not?</p>
04:20		<p>Do I ever see it changing? Well it will only change. It's changing all the time. Probably won't be able to travel so much. Instead of travelling by car and that they're travelling around the world going here, going there on planes and boats. I mean, it wasn't that long ago, in my life, you could not get a traveller to go on the sea. Whenever you mentioned about crossing water, they didn't want to know, but look at them now. They goes on cruises, flies aeroplanes to America and all, Australia. Well there's loads of travellers now still going to Australia and Canada and America to earn a living and coming back after months, New Zealand. I think what would change for the travellers is what will change for everybody. The travellers will just go along and adapt. Still do what they want to do and how they want to do it and what they want to do, but they will adapt with the situation as they've always done. Always done it. I've got loads of favourite stories, loads of 'em, ya know. Funny things that've happened to us over the years. Even at times.</p>
05:17		

Key Timing Index	
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